

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /085 W  
-----060079 201105Z /14

R 200814Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7567  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
AMCONSUL MEDAN  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 3607

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, ID  
SUBJECT: THE MPR HOLDS ITS FIRST VOTES AS CONSENSUS FAILS  
ON THE KEPERCAYAAN ISSUE

REF: JAKARTA 3518

1. SUMMARY. THE REFUSAL OF THE MUSLIM-SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT  
UNITY PARTY (PPP) TO AGREE TO GOVERNMENT DRAFTS OF RESOLUTIONS  
RECOGNIZING KEPERCAYAAN (JAVANESE MYSTICISM) RESULTED IN BOTH  
VOTING AND PPP WALKOUTS IN TWO PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE  
ASSEMBLY (MPR) COMMITTEES MARCH 18 AND 19 WHEN THAT ISSUE AROSE.  
THE ACTIONS SHATTERED A LONG-TIME TRADITION OF SOLVING POLI-  
TICAL DISAGREEMENTS BY CONSENSUS, BUT OTHER ISSUES BEFORE  
THE COMMITTEES WERE RESOLVED ON THE BASIS OF COMPROMISE AFTER  
LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS. THE PPP HAS GIVEN SUHARTO AND ADAM MALIK  
ITS ENDORSEMENT, THEREBY ASSURING THEIR ELECTION WITHOUT  
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OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WHAT WAS REPORTEDLY THE FIRST USE OF VOTING IN THE  
MPR IN TWENTY YEARS, THE PPP OBJECTIONS TO THE INCLUSION  
OF KEPERCAYAAN IN THE GUIDELINES OF STATE POLICY (GBHN) AND  
TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PAN-  
CASILA (P4) AS AN OFFICIAL MPR RESOLUTION WERE OVERWHELMED

BY ALLIANCES OF THE OTHER FOUR FACTIONS AS THE FOUR MPR COMMITTEES COMPLETED THEIR DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTED TO THE PLENARY SESSION MARCH 19. VOTES ON BOTH ISSUES WERE TAKEN AFTER PPP MEMBERS WALKED OUT OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT NO CONSENSUS WAS GOING TO BE REACHED.

3. THE FIRST VOTE AND WALKOUT TOOK PLACE IN COMMITTEE B, WHERE IT HAD BEEN BELIEVED THAT A COMPROMISE ON P4 MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. DISCUSSION PROVED FRUITLESS, HOWEVER, AND LATE MARCH 18 THE PPP SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT HIS FACTION DID NOT OBJECT TO THE IDEA OF A GUIDE TO PANCASILA AS LONG AS IT WAS NOT EMBODIED IN AN OFFICIAL MPR RESOLUTION AND DID NOT CONFLICT WITH THE INTERPRETATION OF PANCASILA FOUND IN THE 1945 CONSTITUTION, BUT IT COULD NOT ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH A COMMITTEE DECISION TO APPROVE SUCH A RESOLUTION. SUBMITTING A WRITTEN VERSION OF THIS STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ALL BUT 3 OF THE 27 PPP MEMBERS LEFT THE ROOM. THE THREE WHO REMAINED, ALL FROM THE OLD PSII PARTY, EXPLAINED THAT THEY SUPPORTED THE PPP VIEW BUT NOT ITS TACTIC IN WALKING OUT. AS CONSENSUS WAS THEN IMPOSSIBLE, A VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION 183 TO 0, THE THREE PPP MEMBERS NOT VOTING.

4. IN A MARATHON SESSION WHICH CONTINUED INTO THE EARLY HOURS OF MARCH 19, COMMITTEE WAS REQUIRED TO TAKE VOTES ON COMPETING VERSIONS OF SECTIONS OF THE GBHN COVERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VARIOUS SUBJECTS WHEN THE PPP INSISTED ON ITS OWN VERSION. IN THREE SUCCESSIVE VOTES THE VERSIONS PROPOSED BY THE OTHER FOUR FACTIONS WERE UPHELD 187 TO 31 (30 PPP AND ONE REGIONAL MEMBER). BEFORE A FOURTH VOTE COULD BE TAKEN ON THE PPP'S WATERED DOWN REFERENCE TO KEPERCAYAAN, THE PPP MEMBERS SAY THAT DEFEAT WAS UNAVOIDABLE AND STAGED A SECOND WALKOUT, LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT'S VERSION UNCHALLENGED.

5. GOLKAR CHIEF AMIR MURTONO INITIALLY DENOUNCED THE PPP WALKOUT IN COMMITTEE B AS IRRESPONSIBLE AND A BETRAYAL OF EARLIER AGREEMENTS, BUT LATER TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE USE OF VOTING IN THE MPR WAS AN INDICATION OF "MATURITY IN OUR DEMOCRACY". PDI (DEMOCRATIC PARTY) SECRETARY GENERAL SABAM SIRAIT SAID THE VOTING WOULD NOT AFFECT NATIONAL UNITY, BUT HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT SPREAD TO OTHER LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

6. COMMITTEE C REACHED AGREEMENT ON ALL THE RESOLUTIONS AND REGULATIONS ON ITS AGENDA. INCLUDED WAS THE CONTROVERSIAL DECREE (TAP) X, WHICH IN ITS NEW FORM CONTINUES THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO ASSURE THE SECURITY AND UNITY OF THE NATION AND PREVENT THE RECURRENCE

OF A COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT LIKE THAT IN 1965 BUT ADDS  
THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL PAY ATTENTION TO THE RIGHTS OF  
CITIZENS AS HE DOES THIS, REPORT TO THE DPR AND BE RESPONSIBLE  
TO THE MPR. THE RESOLUTION ON THE CONDUCT OF  
GENERAL ELECTIONS ALSO REFLECTS SOME PPP AND PDI VIEWS,  
PROVIDING FOR "AN INCREASED ROLE FOR THE CONTESTING PAR-  
TIES" IN THE SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS.

7. IN COMMITTEE D THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF ACCOUNTING  
WAS OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED, BUT THE PPP AND PDI ADDED SPECI-  
FICATIONS THAT THEY WERE ATTACHING CERTAIN NOTATIONS.  
THE NOTATIONS AMOUNTING TO A MINORITY REPORT WERE NOT  
CITED, BUT THE PPP'S WERE KNOWN TO INCLUDE SOME 16 COMPLAINTS  
RAISED IN EARLIER PPP PRONOUNCEMENTS.  
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IN SPITE OF ITS HARD LINE POSITION ON KEPERCAYAAN,  
THE PPP ANNOUNCED MARCH 19 THAT IT ENDORSED SUHARTO FOR

PRESIDENT AND ADAM MALIK FOR VICE PRESIDENT, ASSURING THEM OF THE SUPPORT OF ALL FIVE FACTIONS IN THE MPR AND OBVIATING THE NEED FOR A FORMAL VOTE WHEN THE ELECTIONS ARE HELD. EARLIER THE SAME DAY THE PDI HAD ENDORSED MALIK FOR VICE PRESIDENT. MALIK TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE ELECTION OF A NEW MPR AND DPR CHAIRMAN WOULD BE HELD IN MAY WHEN THE DPR RESUMES ITS SESSIONS.

9. COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RESERVATIONS TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, THE CONFLICTS IN THE MPR BETWEEN THE PPP AND THE GOVERNMENT FACTIONS HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO THE CORE ISSUE OF RELIGION AND THE ROLE IT IS TO PLAY IN INDONESIAN SOCIETY. AS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR, ALL OTHER DIFFERENCES APPEAR NEGOTIABLE EXCEPT FOR THIS. AFTER THE EMOTIONAL SPREE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WALKOUTS AND VOTING THE PPP MAY BE WILLING TO LET THE REST OF THE GENERAL SESSION PROCEED WITHOUT INCIDENT (PARTICULARLY AFTER THE BOMB EXPLOSION AT THE MPR REPORTED SEPTEL), AND THEY HAVE GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT TO SUHARTO AND MALIK'S CANDIDACIES. THEY WILL, HOWEVER, HAVE ONE LAST CHANCE TO "DEFEND THEIR FAITH" SHOULD THEY WISH TO FORCE A VOTE OR WALK OUT WHEN THE COMMITTEES' RESOLUTIONS ARE RATIFIED BY THE PLENARY SESSION MARCH 21.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, PARTY SCHISMS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 JAKARTA 3518  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, ID  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014